

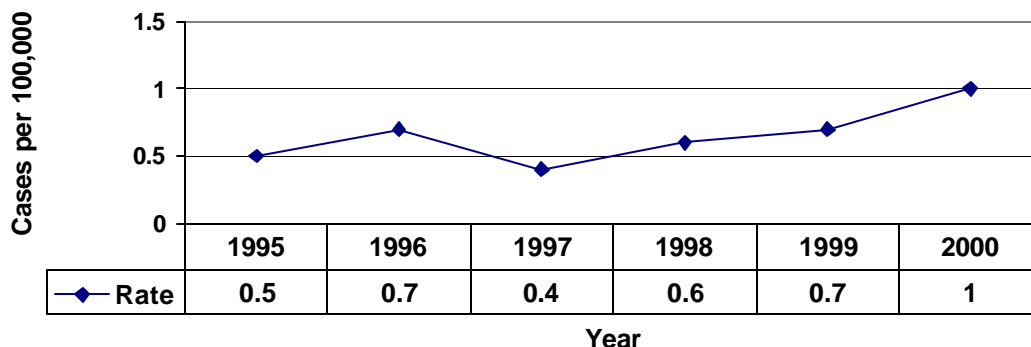
# HEPATITIS C, ACUTE

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is found in the blood of persons who have this disease. HCV is spread by contact with the blood of an infected person. Hepatitis C often produces an illness with insidious onset of symptoms, including anorexia, abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting, and progressing to jaundice less frequently than hepatitis B. Ninety percent of cases are asymptomatic, but chronic infection is common (50 to 80% of cases). Of these about half will develop cancer or cirrhosis of the liver. Groups at high risk of acquiring HCV are injecting drug users, recipients of blood products prior to 1992, and hemodialysis patients.

## Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Serum aminotransferase levels  $> 2\frac{1}{2}$  times the upper limit of normal; **and**
- IgM anti-HAV negative, **and**
- IgM anti-HBc negative (if done) or HBsAg negative, **and**
- Anti-HCV positive, with confirmation by a supplemental test (e.g., PCR or RIBA).

**Acute Hepatitis C Incidence, Kentucky  
1995-2000**



**Incidence in Kentucky** **2000**

**Number of Cases** 40

Rate per 100,000 1.0

**Rate by Gender**

Female 0.7

Male 1.4

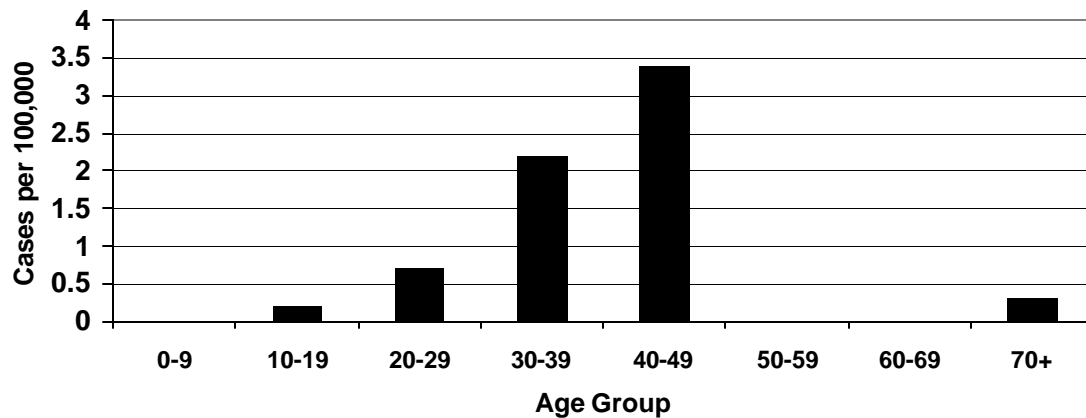
**Rate by Race**

White 0.8

Black 0.7

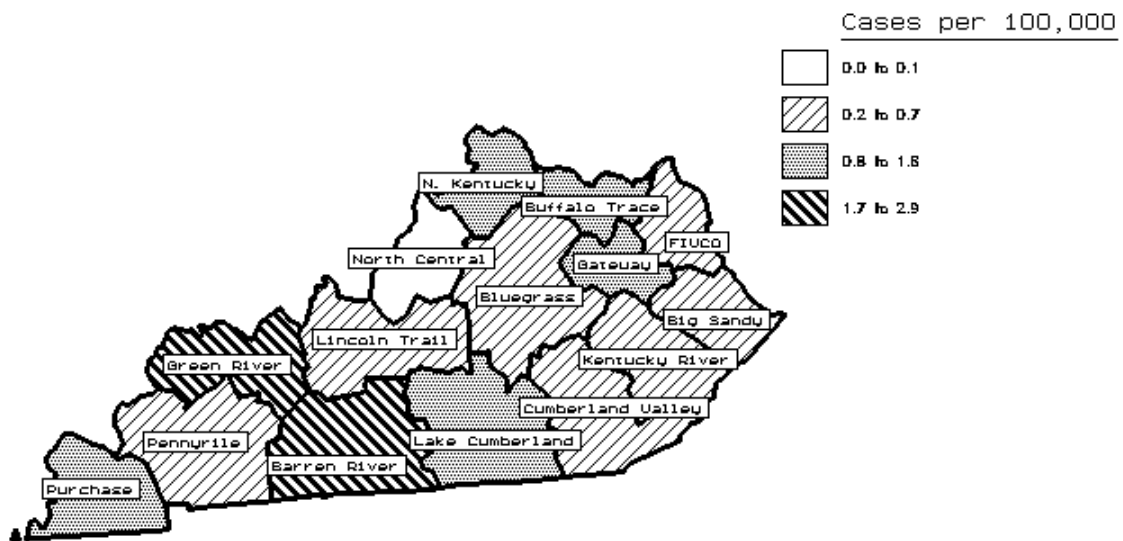
Race was unknown for 9 cases and was other for 1 case.

**Acute Hepatitis C Age-Specific Incidence  
Kentucky, 2000**



The highest reported incidence was in the 40-49 year age group at 3.4 cases per 100,000, followed by the 30-39 year age group at 2.2 cases per 100,000.

## Acute Hepatitis C by District, Kentucky Annual Incidence, 2000



All districts reported at least one case. The Green River District had the highest incidence with 2.9 cases per 100,000, followed by Barren River District with 2.8 cases per 100,000.